

Department of Fish and Game  
1812 Ninth Street  
Sacramento, California 95814  
(916) 653-7667

September 1, 2006

TO: Interested Agencies and Individuals

RE: NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT/ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE LAKE DAVIS PIKE ERADICATION PROJECT (SCH# 2005-09-2070)

**DRAFT EIR/EIS:** Notice is hereby given that a joint Draft Environmental Impact Report/ Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIR/EIS) has been prepared by the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) and the U.S. Forest Service, Plumas National Forest (PNF) for the proposed Lake Davis Pike Eradication Project. The Draft EIR/EIS addresses the potential environmental effects that could result from implementation of this Project. An Initial Study was prepared and distributed on September 14, 2005.

**PROJECT LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION:** Lake Davis is a State Water Project (SWP) reservoir located within Plumas County and the PNF, approximately six miles upstream of the confluence of Big Grizzly Creek with the Middle Fork Feather River and five miles north of the town of Portola on State Highway 70. Lake Davis drains into the Middle Fork Feather River, which terminates at Lake Oroville. From Lake Oroville, water flows into the Feather River, then into the Sacramento River, and then into the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The project area comprises the area directly affected by the project alternatives, including treatment and neutralization activities. The project area is represented by the watershed of Lake Davis including Lake Davis, waters draining into Lake Davis that may contain pike, and the portion of Big Grizzly Creek below the dam that flows to the Middle Fork Feather River.

The DFG proposes to eradicate pike from Lake Davis and its tributaries to re-establish the trout fishery at Lake Davis and to prevent the pike from escaping from the reservoir and causing ecological impacts in other parts of the State or region such as those that have occurred at Lake Davis. The primary objective/goal of the project is complete eradication of pike from Lake Davis and its tributaries. The project would be approved and implemented by the DFG. The USFS action for the project is the issuance of a special use permit to the DFG and potentially two forest closure orders.

The project is needed because efforts to control and contain the pike population in Lake Davis have been of limited value in controlling the current pike population. The pike population continues to grow despite these efforts. Should pike escape or be moved from Lake Davis, they have the potential to do irreversible damage to the aquatic ecosystem and fisheries in the San Francisco Bay-Delta estuary and its watershed, as well as potentially harm other areas of California and the region. The CALFED Bay-Delta Program Ecosystem Restoration Program Plan has identified halting the unauthorized introduction and spread of potentially harmful non-native introduced species of fish, such as northern pike, in the Bay-Delta and Central Valley as a strategic objective. (CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Program Plan, Volume I, July 2000).

Seven project alternatives are evaluated in the Draft EIR/EIS:

- The No Project/No Action alternative
- The Proposed Project/Proposed Action, which involves the draw down of Lake Davis to 15,000 acre-feet and the application of liquid rotenone to the reservoir and its tributaries.
- Four alternatives (Alternatives A through D) also involve rotenone treatment of Lake Davis and its tributaries: Alternative A: Draw down Lake Davis to 15,000 acre-feet and apply powdered rotenone to the reservoir and liquid rotenone to the tributaries; Alternative B, C and D: Draw down Lake Davis to 5,000, 35,000 and 48,000 acre-feet respectively and apply liquid rotenone to the reservoir and its tributaries. One alternative (Alternative E) is a non-chemical alternative, involving the complete dewatering of the reservoir and its tributaries. In addition, the document analyzes four options for neutralization of treated water in Lake Davis, which could be discharged into Big Grizzly Creek.

September 1, 2006  
Page Two

The document evaluates the impact all the alternatives could have on physical, biological, human and environmental resources. The analysis found significant environmental effects anticipated as a result of the project, and many of the project action alternatives, to surface and groundwater resources, air quality, noise, aquatic resources, wildlife, vegetation, land use, aesthetics, cultural resources, public services, and human and ecological health concerns. Many of the significant impacts can be mitigated by proposed measures described in the Draft EIR/EIS. Monitoring activities are proposed for many of the proposed project activities. Lake Davis, its tributaries, and Big Grizzly Creek within the project area is not a listed toxic site.

**PUBLIC REVIEW:** The Draft EIR/EIS and supporting documents are available on the DFG website at [www.dfg.ca.gov/northernpike](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/northernpike) and upon request at 916-445-3584. Copies of the Draft EIR/EIS are available to review at locations listed below.

California Department of Fish and Game, 4001 N. Wilson Way, Stockton  
California Department of Fish and Game, 1701 Nimbus Road, Suite A, Rancho Cordova  
California Department of Fish and Game, 1416 9th Street, 1st Floor, Public Information Office, Sacramento  
Plumas National Forest, Beckwourth Ranger District, 23 Mohawk Road, Blairsden  
Plumas National Forest, 159 Lawrence Street, Quincy  
Sacramento Public Library: 828 I Street, Sacramento  
Plumas County Library: 445 Jackson Street, Quincy,  
Plumas County Library Portola Branch: 34 3rd Avenue, Portola  
Portola City Hall, 35 Third Avenue, Portola

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Written comments should be received during the public review period which begins on September 1, 2006 and ends at 5 p.m. on October 16, 2006. Comments must be postmarked or received by October 16. Please mail, FAX, or hand deliver comments to DFG and PNF at :

Lake Davis Pike Eradication Project  
Department of Fish and Game  
1812 9th Street, Attention: Ed Pert  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
FAX: (916) 445-4044

Written comments may also be submitted by email by going to the website at [www.dfg.ca.gov/northernpike](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/northernpike). Verbal comments may be submitted to the PNF by appointment. Please call 530-283-7761 to make an appointment.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS:** Four public hearings to receive comments on the Draft EIR/EIS will be held:

**Tuesday, September 26, 2006**

Two Sessions: 1-4 p.m.; 6:-9 p.m.

Location: Portola Station Baptist Church  
171 S. Gulling Street, Portola, CA

**Thursday, October 5, 2006**

Two Sessions: 1-4 p.m.; 6:-9 p.m.

Location: National University, Room # 120-122  
9320 Tech Center Drive, Sacramento, CA

*For additional information, please contact the DFG and PNF at 916-445-3584.*

Original Signed by Ed Pert

Ed Pert  
Branch Chief